

Outdoor Bait Stations:

Keep bait stations out of the reach of children and pets!

The rat poison bait station shown below can be made at home, or bought at hardware stores. Rats go inside to feed on the bait. Check and replenish bait stations twice a week.

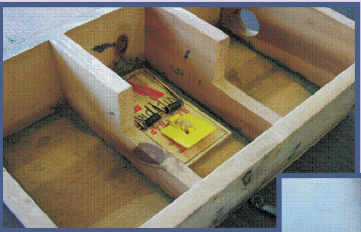


PVC Pipe 3" - 4" diameter, 18-24" Long

Indoor Rat Trap Boxes:

Keep children and pets away from traps!

This home-made three chambered box contains a rat snap trap. Drill a one inch hole at each end of the box and place the trap in the middle chamber. Cover with plywood and lock to protect children and pets.



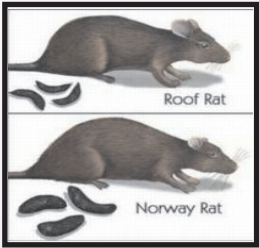
Dimensions:
18" long
10" wide
6" high



Covered and locked home-made rat trap Box

Signs Of Rat Activity:

Rat droppings are the most obvious sign of a rat infestation. Look for droppings in attics, garages and storage sheds.



Rat dropping



Actual size

Other signs of rat activity include:

- Rub marks caused by greasy rat fur
- Damaged food and containers
- Signs of gnawing
- Sounds in the attic, floors or walls
- Stripped bark from plants and trees
- Piles of cut snail shells hidden under plants or wood piles

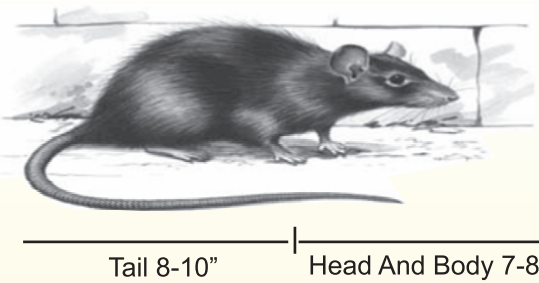


Damaged Fruit

Rats Diseases:

Rats can carry and spread diseases that can harm humans and other animals:

- **FOOD POISONING:** Eating food that has been contaminated with rat urine or droppings can cause food borne illnesses such as e-coli and salmonella
- **PLAGUE:** People can be infected with plague from fleas that feed on infected rats
- **PARASITES:** Rats can carry tapeworms and trichinosis
- **RAT-BITE FEVER:** A bite from an infected rat can cause rat bite fever



It takes a lot of work to get rid of rats once they are in your home. If you have rodents in your home, call the San Diego County Vector Control Program at (858) 694-2888 for help.

For more information about rats or other vector-borne diseases, contact San Diego County's Vector Control Program.

County of San Diego



Vector Control Program

County of San Diego
Vector Control Program
9325 Hazard Way
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 694-2888

www.SDVector.com

RATS

END THE RAT RACE

Exclusion, Trapping and Baiting



County of San Diego
VECTOR CONTROL PROGRAM

RAT FACTS:

Rats are very destructive pests that can spread disease, contaminate foods and food preparation areas, and cause costly structural damage. They have even caused house fires by chewing on electrical wires. Rats are very hardy and can live in many different environments. Your help is needed to help control rats in San Diego county.

TYPES OF RATS:

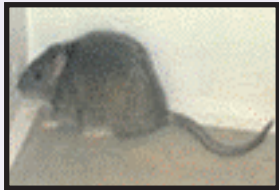
Roof Rats: (*Rattus rattus*)

Roof rats are the most common type of rat in San Diego County. They like to climb and live above ground.



Norway Rats: (*Rattus Norvegicus*)

Norway rats, also known as sewer rats, are not usually found inside homes. They like to burrow outside and are bigger than roof rats.



Wood Rats: (*Neotoma spp.*)



Wood rats build nests out of sticks and debris. They are not found in homes, but some nest in outbuildings.

KEEP RATS OUT OF YOUR HOME

Rats cannot live without food, water or shelter.
You can get rid of rats by following these simple steps!

Step 1 Rodent proof your home and storage buildings!

- Check the outside of your home for holes or gaps the size of a quarter or larger
- Repair all openings using rodent proof materials: 1/4 inch 18-22 gauge wire hardware cloth
- Install metal weather stripping under doors to remove gaps



Gaps under doors invite rats inside

Step 2 Remove Food Sources from your property!

- Keep garbage cans covered at all times
 - Pick fruit, nuts and vegetables as they ripen
 - Throw away or compost fruit that has fallen on the ground
 - Feed pets during daylight hours only and remove uneaten food right away



Covered Garbage Can

- Avoid storing food in garages and storage sheds unless it is in rat-proof covered metal containers

Step 3 INSIDE your home use traps, not poison bait!

- Use snap traps when rats are inside your home
- Place traps at entry points, or where you have seen rat droppings
- Bait the traps with peanut butter or the food the rats have been eating
- Bait the trap for three days before setting the trigger
- Tie down traps to prevent injured rats from dragging the traps away and dying inside your walls
- Poisoned rats may die inside walls or attics, creating odors and attracting flies
- Check traps at least twice a week
- Use CAUTION when placing traps around children or pets

Step 4 OUTSIDE your home use poison bait!

- Rodent proof your home BEFORE using poison bait
- Always read the label and follow directions when using poisons!
- Multi-dose, anti-coagulant poisons are the most effective. Rats may need to feed on the bait for several days for it to work.

Step 4 (continued)

- Place poison bait in an enclosed bait station where rats and their droppings have been found
- Place bait in a protected area such as under woodpiles or in thick vegetation where rats may be hiding
- Check bait stations twice a week and add bait when necessary
- Place dead rats in sealed plastic bags and put them in trash
- Move to step five when rats stop eating the bait
- Keep bait away from children and pets



Thick ivy provides perfect nesting places for rats

Step 5 Get rid of rat habitat!

- Remove all trash and debris
- Stack woodpiles, lumber and household items at least 18 inches above the ground, and 12 inches away from fences and walls
- Trim trees, bushes and vines at least 4 feet away from the roof
- Remove heavy vegetation such as ivy, bougainvillea and pyracantha away from buildings and fences
- Thin vegetation to allow daylight in and remove rat hiding places